

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
June 12, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:34 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Indigo Channing Miquel Jackson Kate Parks	Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair Shirley Templeton Vaughn
Absent:	Sarah Fisher Adrienne Scott	Fred Davis
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Commissioner Reflection

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn announced that the city will sponsor a workshop from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. June 27 at Prescott as part of the Imagine Dubuque campaign. Attendees can share their thoughts on employment, housing, education, transportation safe neighborhoods, and access to medical and mental health resources in the community.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn noted that under Goal 2, Commissioner Scott, not Parks, volunteered to host a table at the Resources Unit Volunteer Awards night on June 1. Commissioner Templeton Vaughn moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 8, 2017 as corrected, Commissioner Schiesl seconded. All in favor of approving the minutes as corrected. Commissioners Channing and Jackson abstained.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The May 2017 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

DCPRC – Anthony stated that he is no longer a member of the DCPRC. Kelly and Mark Dalsing presented training to the group at the June 1 meeting. Miquel Jackson was appointed chairperson, RRS Stewart, Vice-Chair, and Dora Serna, Secretary.

Iowa Access to Justice – Meetings have been scheduled for the next year. The expungement fairs are happening, and they are still working on marketing strategies. The Public Outreach Committee is looking at ways of getting information out in the community about access to legal assistance. Kelly reported that on Wednesday, area lawyers will be at the Presentation Lantern Center from 6 – 7 p.m. to talk about the free or low-cost services they can offer community members. This presentation is geared towards immigrants but all are welcome.

NAACP – Working on preparation for Juneteenth on June 17th. Anthony has reserved a resource table for the Commission, and encouraged commissioner participation. Shirley and Kate can staff the table the first part of the day.

The Iowa Black Caucus recently had a town hall meeting at the Dream Center, and as a result of that meeting, a group named The Coalition was formed to provide assistance to

any organization within the city that is working directly with the African American community in relation to education, housing, employment, and incarceration issues.

Steeple Square – Continuing to raise funds for renovation to the facility, and promoting the space for events.

Director's Report:

Kelly distributed a summary highlighting the basic facts and significant legal issues from the Simon Seeding & Sod v. Dubuque Human Rights Commission and Jermaine Stapleton recent Supreme Court Decision.

Old Business:

New Business:

Standing Items: Goals

Goal 1: Research, illuminate and eliminate disparities and increase cultural competencies in education, housing, and employment. Initiatives identified.

Commissioner Schiesl reported that the committee received the itemized list of the equity job duties that Mae Hingtgen and Phil Kramer are performing for the school district. They are performing all that is required of them. He felt there were deeper issues that need to be addressed, especially the poverty that is centered in downtown Dubuque that effects the elementary-aged children at the five downtown schools, which are the lowest scoring schools in the state.

The District is coming to the end of their Five Year Strategic Plan, and that plan did not address poverty or minorities. In the Teaching Strategic Plan for 2017- 2018, they want to increase the number of students taking post-secondary course work with specific emphasis in removing barriers for the under-represented population, and conduct a district-wide equity audit. The School Board will soon be working on putting their Five-Year Plan together.

Economic Development, Main Street and the Greater Dubuque Development Center are looking for ways to revitalize the North End community. He suggested inviting Dan LoBianco, Rick Dickinson and Maurice Jones to next month's meeting to speak to the commission as to what their plans are for downtown Dubuque. He mentioned that Iowa State University students completed a study on the Central Avenue Corridor, but he is unable to locate that report.

Commissioner Allen asked what the goal would be going forward to assist with this effort in alleviating some of these issues. Commissioner Schiesl believes that both the City of Dubuque and DCSD needs to take a hard look at poverty in the downtown area and question why it continues. Commissioner Parks brought up the Source of Income issues in housing that were recently addressed by the City Council, and questioned who would be responsible with the follow-up on that after a year?

The next step is to prepare a report and suggest some recommendations such as asking the District to study the downtown schools during their strategic planning and look at solutions for the inequity. With the housing issues, where we are putting our low-income housing is causing a burden on our school district. It was suggested that they invite the Superintendent and Alvin, the Housing Director to a future meeting to discuss the report and their concerns.

Goal 2: Initiative 1: Educate the community on transgender rights and begin with education of the Commission.

A meeting will be scheduled.

Initiative 2: Continue to improve communication within and among community groups to improve human rights initiatives.

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn reported that there was a nice crowd at the Resource Unite Awards Banquet. They are planning to staff a booth at the June 17th Juneteenth event. Commissioners should let the group know if there are any upcoming events where they can also distribute informational materials.

Kelly distributed survey results on community interest in Know Your Rights Workshops. Staff had partnered with the Department of Human Rights as they had a staff member who was going to arrange the workshops, but has since left her job. Human Rights staff does not have the capacity to take this on. She asked the education subcommittee to consider whether this is an educational piece they want to take on. There are three attorneys in town who are willing to present workshops on various topics. Further discussion will take place during the August goal setting session.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 5:43 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____